

Petition in the case of Helena KOPPER against the sentence of fifteen years imprisonment passed by the G.C.M. at Lüneburg on the 17 Nov 1945.

The accused H. Kopper is concerned with the 1 charge / Belsen / only see the charge sheet.

The charge is supported by written statements 15/10, 15/33, 16/27, 16/36, and by oral evidence 11/35, 12/4, 12/8, 12/12, / vol/page. Evidence given by the accused is contained in vol 41/15 and 42/2. Evidence given in favour of the accused by other accused is in vol 37/25 and 39/24.

Kopper is accused of illtreating internees while holding the position of block altester and later camp police woman, all at Belsen.

1/ the accused agrees to have used a certain amount of force to control internees under her orders.

2/ she was herself a simple prisoner for four and a half years, and as such stayed in Ravensbruck and Auschwitz concentration camps.

3/ the defence witness I. Madlung 25/33 says: "prisoners at Ravensbruck were terribly illtreated".

4/ at Auschwitz Kopper was nearly the whole time in punishment Kommando.

The British witness Le Druillennec 4/15 said "the guards in concentration camps are brutish and prisoners in time become brutish and such think as human kindness is quite unknown in such a place.

5/ after 4 1/2 years of brutal treatment Kopper becomes herself a functionary,

6/ she is a functionary for 2 months.

7/ she has not been successful in tracing any of her defence witnesses.

8/ she has received a sentence equal to that of SS personnel who were in charge of concentration camps for the same amount of years as she was an internee / H. Ehlert, H. Schreier /

In my submission not only in respect of the sentence there have been a difference between an SS and a prisoner, but the amount of time and illtreatment the prisoner went through in a concentration camp should be a most important factor in deciding on the sentence.

Jedrzejowicz
Defending Officer Appointed.